

A native of Moscow, Russia, Dr. Maria Lyapkova has appeared at major music festivals including the *Aspen Music Festival & School* (United States), *Spotlight on Young Musicians* (France), and the *Music of Norway* (Norway/Russia). An accomplished collaborative pianist, she has performed with principals of leading orchestras such as the San Francisco Ballet Orchestra, the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, and The Bolshoi Theatre. Lyapkova has previously held staff pianist positions at a number of institutions including The Young Actors Musical Theatre of Moscow and the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She joined the faculty at Stephen F. Austin State University School of Music as a collaborative pianist in 2021.

A pianist, keyboardist, and educator, Lyapkova feels equally at home performing on modern piano and period instruments including harpsichord and fortepiano. Her experience and knowledge encompass a large repertoire with a special interest in historical performance and new music. In continuing her doctoral research project, Lyapkova made the first recording of the sonatas for keyboard and obligato violin by German composer A. F. Titz on a historical fortepiano. As a proponent of new music, she has worked with prominent composers such as Gunther Schuller, Joseph Schwantner, and Bair Dondokov.

Dr. Lyapkova performs guest artist recitals and presents masterclasses for piano and collaborative piano across the country. Her previous engagements include Northern Kentucky University, University of Central Florida, and the University of Tampa. A passionate teacher, Lyapkova is dedicated to guiding and educating young musicians. Many of her students have received honors and awards at district and state festivals. In addition, she is an active member of the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) and participates as a judge for local festivals and competitions.

Maria Lyapkova received her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Collaborative Piano from The University of Texas at Austin and a Master of Music degree in Piano Performance and Historical Performance from the Moscow State Tchaikovsky Conservatory.